Issuing of Railway bonds to fund conversion of Railway lines in Maharashtra

1760. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had permitted the Government of Maharashtra to sponsor and issue Railway Bonds to fund the conversion of railway lines in Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government of Maharashtra have sent any proposal to the Central Government in this regard;

(c) when was this proposal sent by Government of Maharashtra; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) August, 1988.

(d) Finance Ministry has agreed in principle to the proposal. The State Government is yet to get the same cleared by the Planning Commission.

Accidents of Westland helicopters

1761. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the various accidents of Westland helicopters Government propose to review the policy of purchase of these helicopters;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Westland-30 and SA-365 N Dauphin 2 helicopters in the fleet of Pawan Hans Ltd. were selected for acquisition after techno-economic evaluation of various types of helicopters as per the procedure followed in the case of such purchases.

Future acquisition of helicopters, if any, required by Pawan Hans Limited would also be based on similar techno-economic evaluation of the available types of helicopters.

Soviet President's proposal for collective security of Asian Nations

1762. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Soviet President Gorbachev during his recent visit to China had urged upon the Asian countries including India, to forge a collective security network and to work together to solve regional problems; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). In his speech of May 17, 1989 in Beijing, President Gorbachev reiterated and elaborated proposals earlier made by him for strengthening peace, security and stability in the Asia and Pacific region. The speech contained positive ideas which deserve careful study.

Non-aligned movement meeting at Harare

1763. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a ministerial level meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement countries was held at Harare in the middle of May this year:

(b) if so, what decisions were taken there; and

(c) whether any informal discussions took place between him and his counterparts belonging to different countries on the Indian Sub-Continent with regard to regional problems; if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The meeting discussed current political and economic issues in preparation for the NAM Summit scheduled to be held at Belgrade in September. It also addressed itself to ways and means of revitalising the role and methodology, the format and content of documentation and the effectiveness of the instrumentalities of the Non-aligned Movement.

(c) The External Affairs Minister had informal discussions with many of his counterparts including those from neighbouring countries. These discussions covered bilateral, regional and international issues.

Stoppage of some Express trains at Ganj Basoda

1764. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to stop some Mail Express trains as 137/138 Up Chhatishgarh Express/G.T. Express at Ganj Basoda on Central Railway; and

(b) if so, the time by which this facility is likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Stoppage of Malwa Express has been provided from May, 1989.

(b) Provision of stoppage of additional express trains is presently not justified.

Late running of trains

1765. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some trains like the Sambalpur-Express, the Hirakhud Express, the Utkal Express and Sambalpur-Jharsuguda passenger are regularly running late causing a lot of inconvenience to the passengers;

(b) what is the number of days during the period from 1st January 1989 to 15th April 1989 when these trains had reached their destinations late;

(c) what are the reasons of their late running; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government for their punctual running ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir, not after May, 1989.

(b)	5	Sambalpur Exp.	95 days
	6	"	78 "
	47	Hirakhud Exp.	42 "
	48	"	42 "
	77	Utkal Express	92 "
	78	"	69 "
	1	JS passenger	65 "
	2	JS "	42 "

(c) Miscreants' activities including agitations, alarm chain pulling etc., accidents and some equipment failures.

(d) Dieselisation of Raipur-Visakhapatnam section and delinking of 17/18 Express alongwith intensive monitoring.

Allotment of Contracts to SC/ST Persons

1766. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :